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Inventors: Sun et al.  
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(a) determining an amount of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a polypeptide of claim 11 in a sample of a patient; and

(b) comparing the amount of the determined nucleic acid molecule or the polypeptide in the sample of the patient to the amount of the colon specific marker in a normal control; wherein a difference in the amount of the nucleic acid molecule or the polypeptide in the sample compared to the amount of the nucleic acid molecule or the polypeptide in the normal control is associated with the presence of colon cancer.

15. (amended) A kit for detecting a risk of cancer or presence of cancer in a patient, said kit comprising a means for determining the presence the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a polypeptide of claim 11 in a sample of a patient.

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**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to correct an inadvertent typographical error in claims 14 and 15. Specifically, claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 11. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.